

Federal Jury Convicts Detroit Physician As Spy for Germany

By the Associated Press.

DETROIT, Feb. 25 (Dr. Fred W. Thomas, Detroit physician, was convicted yesterday of conspiring to spy for Germany by a Federal Court jury that deliberated 21½ hours over a period of five days.

The jury of 10 men and 2 women recommended leniency to Federal Judge Edward J. Moinet. Government attorneys had not asked for imposition of the death penalty, and the maximum imprisonment possible under the statute would be 30 years.

Dr. Thomas was accused with seven other persons in an indictment returned by a grand jury here last fall of conspiring to obtain information to be transmitted to Germany. Six codefendants pleaded guilty; a seventh, Bertrand Stuart Hoffman, went to trial with Dr. Thomas only to be discharged on a finding by psychiatrists that he was mentally incapable of aiding in his defense.

Principal Government witness was Miss Grace Buchanan-Dineen, who acted as a counter-espionage agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation after her arrest in New York. She testified Dr. Thomas supplied her with chemicals she used in making invisible ink for reports to Germany.

FBI agents who were installed in a room next to Miss Buchanan-Dineen's apartment here told of visits by Dr. Thomas, whom they observed through a "secret aperture," and said there was nothing in the visits to indicate a physician-patient relationship which the doctor contended was his only interest in the woman.

Dr. Thomas, testifying in his own behalf, denied the charges.